



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 21, 2007

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House Bill 5758 - An Act An Act Eliminating Discrepancies in Regulations Governing Use of School Facilities

The Department of Public Health opposes House Bill 5758.

The Department of Public Health has the statutory authority (C.G.S., Section 19a-80) to license child day care centers and group day care homes as defined in C.G.S., Section 19a-77. Licensing establishes the minimum health, safety, staffing and programmatic requirements that programs must meet in order to provide child day care services.

Programs that are administered by a public school system or by a municipal agency or department located in a public school building and programs administered by a private school which is in compliance with section 10-188 and is approved by the State Board of Education or is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education are exempt from child day care licensing (C.G.S., Sec. 19a-77(b)).

Other child day care centers in school facilities must comply with licensing standards. Violations cited at these facilities by the Department of Public Health Child Day Care Licensing Program have included:

- Inadequate lighting in space used for homework or close work.
- Lead paint
- Playground safety
- Water quality
- Unprotected glass
- Access to toxins
- Access to kitchen space
- Electrical outlets unprotected
- Lack of required postings (License, fire marshal certificate, complaint procedure, emergency plans, etc.)

When programs in schools are cited for physical facility violations, delays in compliance are often related to difficulties in the process of obtaining permission to make corrections and obtaining funds for remediation. The remedy should not be relaxing safety standards.

Licensed before and after school programs should be required to meet the health and safety standards required by the licensing statutes and regulations to assure the health and safety of children attending these programs, regardless of the setting.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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